

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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FEATURING: Agricultural Prices Milk Production Annual Layers & Eggs
 Cattle on Feed Cold Storage Slaughter Apples & Peaches

LIVESTOCK PRICES CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers at mid-January were up significantly for many livestock commodities while steady to up slightly for crops.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over averaged \$81.00 per cwt. at mid-January, up \$4.00 from December and \$17.00 from January 1999. This was the highest steer and heifer price since July 1993. **Beef cow** prices averaged \$34.00 per cwt., down \$1.00 from December but up \$2.00 from January 1999. **Calves** under 500 lbs. averaged \$94.00 per cwt. for mid-January, up \$7.00 from December and \$19.00 from last January. This was the highest calf price since June 1993.

Barrow and gilt prices also saw improvement but to a lesser extent than that of steers and heifers. Barrow and gilt prices for mid-January averaged \$35.00 per cwt. This was up \$1.00 from December and \$5.00 from January 1999. This compares to the high price reached in August last year. Prices at mid-January for **sows** averaged \$31.00 per cwt., an increase of \$7.00 from last month and \$12.00 from January 1999. This was the highest sow price since December 1997.

The **all milk** price at mid-January was \$13.50 per cwt., up 20 cents from December but down \$5.30 from a year earlier. **Milk cows** for January averaged \$1,240 per head, down \$50 from October but \$100 above January a year ago.

Corn prices for mid-January at \$2.22 per bushel were unchanged from December but down 9 cents from January 1999. Prices for **soybeans** at mid-January were \$4.90 per bushel, up 28 cents from December while down 58 cents from last January. **Winter wheat** prices for mid-January increased 14 cents to \$2.35 per bushel but were 16 cents below the January 1999 price.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 90 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (2.2 percent) from the December index. Lower prices for broilers, milk, turkeys, and tomatoes more than offset price increases for corn, lettuce, soybeans, and cotton. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cotton, tobacco, grapes, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively higher marketings of corn, soybeans, cattle, and rice. These marketing changes account for one point of the January index decrease.

Compared with January 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.2 percent) lower. Price decreases from January 1999 for milk, soybeans, cotton, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, lettuce, and apples.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		JAN 1999	DEC 1999	JAN 2000	JAN 2000
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn b/ c/	Bu.	2.31	2.22	2.22	1.90
Soybeans b/	Bu.	5.48	4.62	4.90	4.59
Winter Wheat b/	Bu.	2.51	2.21	2.35	2.35
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	110.00	120.00	120.00	74.10
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	72.00	78.00	78.00	65.90
All Hogs	Cwt.	29.60	33.60	34.80	36.30
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	30.00	34.00	35.00	36.50
Sows	Cwt.	19.00	24.00	31.00	32.20
All Beef Cattle d/	Cwt.	56.30	66.90	69.70	66.60
Steers & Heifers e/	Cwt.	64.00	77.00	81.00	70.70
Cows	Cwt.	32.00	35.00	34.00	35.20
Calves f/	Cwt.	75.00	87.00	94.00	102.00
Milk Cows g/	Ea.	1,140.00	-	1,240.00	1,330.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	18.80	13.30	13.50	11.90
Fluid h/	Cwt.	18.80	13.30	- -	12.00
Manufactured	Cwt.	15.10	9.40	- -	10.70
Hog-Corn Ratios i/	Bu.	12.8	15.1	15.7	19.1

a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Published only in Jan., Apr., July & Oct. h/ Includes surplus diverted to manufacturing. i/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

U. S. MILK PRODUCTION UP 3.8 PERCENT

Kentucky milk production for December 1999 totaled 139 million pounds, down 1 percent from a year earlier, but up 6 percent from November. Average number of cows on farms at 131,000 head, was down 5,000 from last year, and unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,060 pounds, up 30 pounds from December 1998 and up 60 pounds from November 1999.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during December totaled 11.9 billion pounds, up 3.8 percent from

production in these same States in December 1998. November revised production, at 11.3 billion pounds, was up 4.5 percent from November 1998. The November revision represented an increase of 0.1 percent or 11 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,536 pounds for December, 47 pounds above December 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.76 million head, 52,000 head more than December 1998 and 2,000 head more than November 1999.

ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION

Kentucky egg production during the year ending November 30, 1999 was 922 million eggs, compared with 863 million during 1998. An average of 3.8 million layers were on Kentucky operations during 1999, up 8 percent from the 1998 average. Each layer produced an average of 243 eggs during 1999, compared with last year’s average of 245.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1999 totaled a record high 82.7 billion eggs, up 4 percent from the previous year’s total of 79.7 billion eggs. Layer numbers during 1999 averaged 322 million, up 3 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1999 was 257 eggs, compared with the 1998 average of 255 eggs per layer.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.46 million head on January 1, 2000. The inventory was 7 percent above January 1, 1999 and 3 percent above January 1, 1998. The inventory included 6.83 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.56 million head, up 10 percent from January 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.65 million, 9 percent above 1998 and 6 percent above 1997. Net placements were 1.56 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 465,000, 600-699 pounds were 498,000, 700-799 pounds were 422,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 261,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.84 million, 1 percent above 1998 and 5 percent above 1997. **Other disappearance** totaled 90,000 during December, 6 percent above both 1998 and 1997.

DECEMBER 1999 UNITED STATES
EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1999	Dec. 99 % of Dec. 98
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,047	7,274	103
Average Layers (000)	321,782	328,646	102
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,190	2,213	101
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Jan 1 (000)	32,836	30,465	93
Chicks Hatched (000)	35,733	32,730	92
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Jan 1 (000)	619,107	623,774	101
Chicks Hatched (000)	737,840	747,905	101

CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

Cattle on feed January 1, 2000, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.73 million, up 8 percent from the previous year and 3 percent above January 1, 1998. The inventory included 5.76 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 59 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.93 million head, up 11 percent from January 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.41 million, 13 percent above 1998 and 8 percent above 1997.

Marketings during December totaled 1.60 million, 2 percent above 1998 and 7 percent above 1997.

Other disappearance during December was 75,000 head, up 9 percent from 1998 and 10 percent above 1997.

1/AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, and TX.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on December 31, 1999 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken and butter. December 1999 stocks of chicken, at 803 million pounds, broke the previous record December high of 717 million pounds set in 1998. Cooler stocks of pecans and peanuts were also higher than a year earlier.

All U.S. Warehouse Stocks				Dec 99 as % of	
Commodity	Dec 31 1998	Nov 30 1999	Dec 31 1999	Dec 1998	Nov 1999
Frozen Poultry	1,000 lbs		Percent		
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	18,630	44,056	34,705	186	79
Other Chicken	692,463	743,066	760,454	110	102
Total Chicken <u>1/</u>	717,349	795,239	802,922	112	101
Turkey	304,309	252,271	252,167	83	100
Total Frozen Poultry <u>2/</u>	1,025,415	1,052,007	1,058,849	103	101
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	296,423	308,936	313,962	106	102
Pork:					
Bellies	72,657	26,170	40,301	55	154
Total Frozen Pork <u>3/</u>	503,509	422,535	415,872	83	98
Total Meat <u>4/</u>	821,048	750,456	748,643	91	100

1/ Includes broilers, hens and other chickens. 2/ Includes chicken, turkey and ducks. 3/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 4/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in December, down 2 percent from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in December 1998. December 1998 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. December 1999 contained 23 weekdays and 4 Saturdays (including one holiday). Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year and slightly above the previous record high for December set in 1976. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.88 million head, down 1 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.89 million head, 6 percent below 1998. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 261 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	December 1998	November 1999	December 1999	December 99 % of	
				December 1998	November 1999
Million Pounds			Percent		
Beef	2,100	2,146	2,114	101	99
Veal	22	19	21	94	110
Pork	1,799	1,708	1,704	95	100
Lamb & Mutton	23	22	24	101	110
Total U.S.	3,944	3,894	3,862	98	99
Total Kentucky	51.4	40.3	39.2	76	97

1/ Based on packers’ dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. DECEMBER 1998 & 1999 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	5.8	1.8	5,931	1,454	1,016	821
Hogs	245.0	195.7	64,188	51,524	262	263
Sheep & Lambs	0.6	0.7	90	79	160	120
United States						
Cattle	2,894.5	2,876.7	3,513,442	3,523,204	1,214	1,225
Hogs	9,425.9	8,887.2	2,451,831	2,319,592	260	261
Sheep & Lambs	355.3	355.8	46,983	47,873	132	135

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

APPLES AND PEACHES

Utilized production of **commercial apples** in **Kentucky** totaled 7.00 million pounds in 1999, down from 1998. Prices averaged 29.3 cents per pound, up 0.9 cents from 1998 but still down from the record high 31.6 cents in 1996. The value of utilized production totaled \$2.05 million, down from the \$2.56 million in 1998. Kentucky orchards received minimal winter damage thanks to a mild winter, and expectations were high. Producers were optimistic for an excellent crop after a promising spring. However, the prolonged summer drought decreased both the quality and the quantity of the 1999 apple crop.

U.S. utilized apple production for 1999 was estimated at 10.5 billion pounds, 2 percent less than 1998. Production in Eastern States increased as a result of favorable spring growing conditions but was more than offset by production decreases in Washington, Colorado, and Idaho.

Kentucky’s utilized **peach** production totaled 1.50 million pounds in 1999 unchanged from 1998. Prices averaged 43.0 cents per pound, up 5.5 cents from 1998 but well below the record high 62.3 cents per pound of 1996. Value of all utilized 1999 production totaled \$645,000 compared to \$563,000 in 1998. The favorable winter and spring conditions experienced by the apple crop provided similarly high expectations for the peach crop in 1999. Unfortunately the drought took a toll on the quantity of peaches harvested. The drought had one beneficial effect on the peach crop with sweeter fruit harvested due to the concentrations of the sugars.

U.S. utilized peach production in 1999 was estimated at 2.43 billion pounds, up 4 percent from last year but 3 percent below 1997. The California crop, accounting for 73 percent of the U.S. peach crop, was up 4 percent from 1998.

APPLE AND PEACH UTILIZED PRODUCTION, PRICE AND VALUE, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

STATE	Utilized Production			Price Per Pound			Value of Utilized Production		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Million Pounds			Cents			1,000 Dollars			
APPLES - COMMERCIAL CROP									
Illinois	67.0	35.0	54.0	19.6	18.6	17.7	13,103	6,504	9,581
Indiana	48.0	50.0	58.0	21.8	24.3	23.1	10,469	12,130	13,402
KENTUCKY	5.8	9.0	7.0	26.1	28.4	29.3	1,512	2,556	2,051
Missouri	50.5	29.0	46.0	18.9	17.2	18.7	9,551	4,997	8,620
Ohio	60.0	75.0	91.0	22.1	20.5	24.3	13,274	15,374	22,100
Tennessee	8.5	9.0	8.0	23.8	22.2	21.7	2,023	2,000	1,734
Virginia	262.0	269.0	350.0	10.6	11.7	12.5	27,741	31,575	43,750
W. Virginia	110.0	107.0	130.0	10.3	9.1	9.1	11,300	9,723	11,850
U.S.	10,254.3	10,760.5	10,519.1	15.4	12.3	16.0	1,575,403	1,322,319	1,678,891
PEACHES - COMMERCIAL CROP									
Illinois	10.0	13.5	17.0	40.6	43.3	38.9	4,060	5,846	6,613
Indiana	2.4	3.7	2.8	54.5	31.8	36.9	1,308	1,177	1,033
KENTUCKY	0.5	1.5	1.5	30.0	37.5	43.0	150	563	645
Missouri	9.5	9.0	10.5	35.0	39.6	41.7	3,325	3,564	4,379
Ohio	5.8	6.5	7.9	40.0	41.6	44.7	2,320	2,704	3,531
Tennessee	3.0	3.0	3.0	38.0	45.0	47.0	1,140	1,350	1,410
Virginia	8.0	12.0	12.0	28.0	30.0	29.0	2,240	3,600	3,480
W. Virginia	10.5	12.4	12.3	29.3	26.4	30.3	3,080	3,270	3,723
U.S.	2,508.4	2,325.6	2,425.6	17.7	19.2	19.2	444,137	447,297	464,551

Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

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